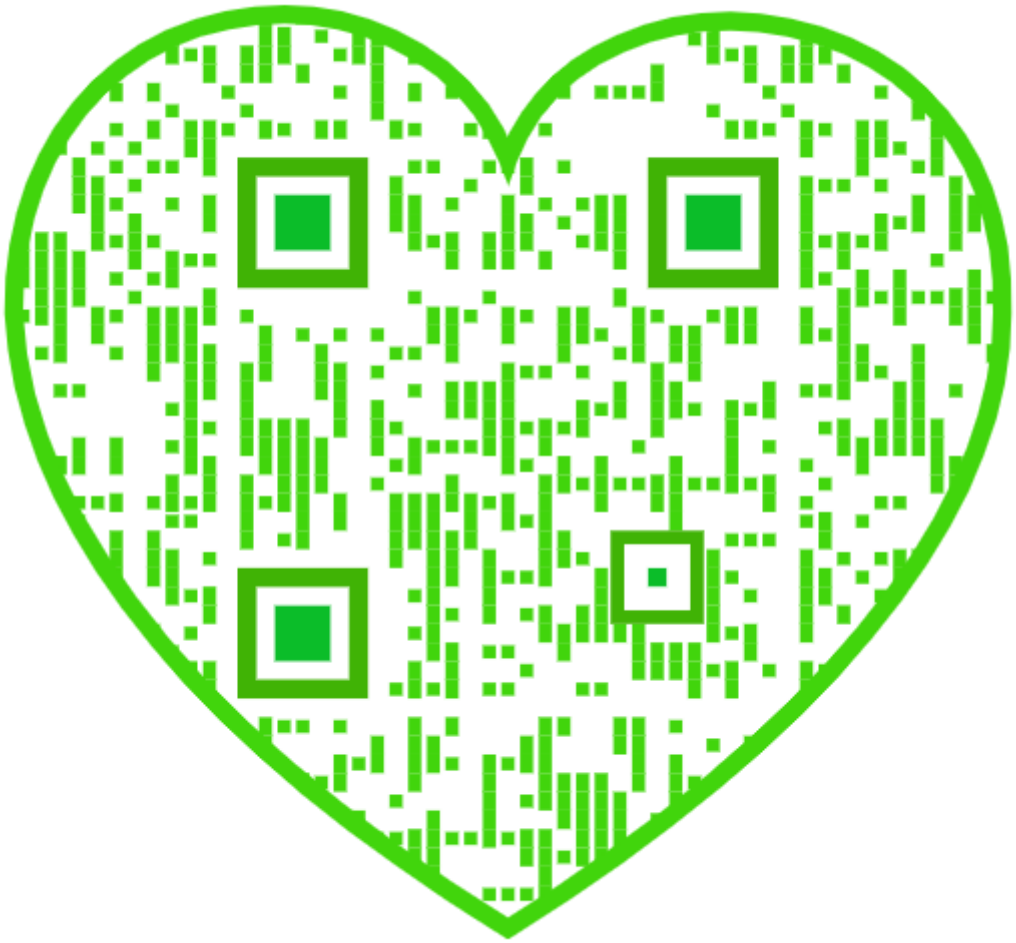
HOW TO CHOOSE A HORSE

FRANK T. BARTON,
M.R.C.V.S.



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INTRODUCTION

How to Choose a Horse; or, Selection before Purchase, has been written as a guide to those who are compelled to purchase a Horse in the absence of skilled assistance, and for such also who are desirous of acquiring a rudimentary knowledge previous to the employment of a qualified Veterinary Surgeon.

If the reader will carefully study the following pages, he will learn sufficient to enable him to steer clear of the rocks and shoals upon which so many purchasers have come to grief through want of a little advice.

The Author.

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HOW TO CHOOSE A HORSE

CHAPTER I

BUYING.

Buying at the Public Market.

In many places weekly or bi-weekly markets are held, in which, in addition to other live stock, horses are exposed for sale, large numbers being purchased through this source. The prices and quality of horses are regulated, to a large extent, by the season of the year, so much so that even old, worn-out horses are sometimes sold for money treble their value.

When choosing a horse in a market, particular care is necessary, because many of the vendors have patched-up animals to dispose of; and if they are successful in disposing of such, there is little prospect of seeing the individual again, much less are the chances of recovering the purchase price of an animal bought from a party of this class.

The best plan is that of ascertaining the names of, or receiving an introduction to, a party who has a reputation for selling a good class of horse in the market, and in whom there would be a reasonable chance of recovering any money paid over should the animal not prove as represented or, it may be, warranted.

Sellers (and buyers) of repute are usually present at most public markets, and although the transactions of these may not always be

of a satisfactory character, it is to their advantage to transact their business as squarely as possible. Under any circumstances the purchaser should endeavour—in fact, not buy without such—to obtain a warranty to the effect that the animal is free from vice of every description both in and out of the stable, in harness, under the saddle, etc.; that it is thoroughly broken, and believed to be sound and correct in every way, the age at the same time being stated in the warranty, likewise the markings upon the animal, for identification.

A written warranty is, of course, indisputable, but a verbal one is all-sufficient, provided that the purchaser can substantiate it. This can be best attained by having a couple of friends present at the time of purchase, and who note the nature of the trans-

action, should any undesirable results be the outcome—which they only too frequently are —of the purchase. Pay particular attention to the age; the eyes, shoulders, elbows, knees, and below here for evidence of splint, or a sprain; the fetlock and pastern, especially in the fore limbs; and the shape, size, and condition of the hoofs.

Remember that cart horses are very frequently affected with side-bone, and commonly lame through this cause.

Speedy cutting, brushing, and the possibility of the horse having been unnerved, must not be forgotten (*see* Chapter II.). The back (for evidence of old sores) and (if a gelding) the scrotal bag should be felt to see that there is not any swelling about it; if so, have nothing to do with the animal,

no matter whatever explanation the owner may offer.

The hocks, for capping, spavin, swelling, etc., must be noted. Stringhalt (Scotch clickèd) and shivering (St. Vitus' dance) are frequent diseases in the horse, therefore the possibility of either being present ought not to be overlooked. The last-named is very often difficult to detect, in a market especially.

Take care not to buy a horse having anything the matter with its breathing apparatus (*see* "Broken Wind" and "Roaring").

At Horse Fairs.

A vast number of horses change hands at the various annual fairs held throughout the country, the most important of these being

well worth the attention of those who have much to do with the buying of horses.

Many of the best horses are purchased at the Irish and Welsh fairs in an unbroken condition, and after the raw material has passed through the brakesman's hands it frequently emerges from the dealer with a warranty of being handsome, having the best of manners, style, and action.

To those unacquainted with the handling of horses, we do not recommend the buyer to choose an unbroken animal, because it takes some time to make a horse thoroughly reliable, even though it be placed in the hands of a professional horse-breaker.

When choosing a horse at a fair for immediate work, more care is even necessary than in the case of selection at a public market.

To try an animal in harness at a fair is not at all usual, neither may it be convenient, though the vendor might willingly sanction it. However, if for saddle and harness purposes, it can be tried with the former, its wind and action being easily tested, the first-named by a sharp gallop uphill, and the latter at the trot and canter.

Of course, it is often possible to buy at a fair with a general warranty; if so, so much the better.

At Public Auction.

By watching the papers for announcements referring to special sales of horses one may be amply repaid by waiting for such.

In London, Tattersall's and Aldridge's are

two of the principal auction marts, and in the south of London the Repository at the Elephant and Castle.

Horse auction marts exist in most of the principal cities and towns.

Crewe, Wrexham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, Aberdeen, etc., have marts doing large horse businesses.

Most of the horses for sale at public auctions are catalogued with a warranty, but it is necessary for one to be very careful as to the correct interpretation of such warranties, which are very often cleverly worded, and may mislead an unsuspecting party. Take, for instance, a horse which is catalogued as "having been ridden and driven by a lady." An innocent buyer, probably requiring a horse that can be made use of by a lady, naturally concludes that the

animal will be suitable for such purposes, little dreaming that the lady said to have both ridden and driven it may have done nothing more than taken the reins in her hands for a few paces only. A horse having a devil of a temper might, and has been, sold under a warranty of the aforesaid description. Many other such tricks might be mentioned, did space permit.

The example given is merely for the purposes of showing that it is needful to look searchingly into the wording of warranties contained in catalogues and advertisements.

When a horse has been bought at auction with a warranty, and it proves on trial not to conform to the terms of such warranty, the auctioneer should be notified immediately, and the animal returned to him, or

placed in the custody of an uninterested party until the dispute is settled.

Buying from the Dealer.

Many dealers dispose of a number of their horses in the public markets, especially such animals as they will find it to their advantage to sell as speedily as possible, retaining the best for sale by private treaty.

By visiting the stables of well-known dealers, it is not a very difficult matter to come across an animal answering the requirements of the intending purchaser, who, after satisfying himself as to its suitability in a general way, will find it advantageous to select a veterinary surgeon to examine the animal as to soundness.

Apart from this, many dealers give written

warranties, or allow a week's trial before completion of the transaction. This is reasonable, and nothing fairer can be expected. Dealers are also in the habit of advertising horses for sale "under cover," such as :

"Handsome Bay Hunter (property of officer ordered abroad), etc., etc."

It does not follow that there is any fault with the animal, but this is done simply because many gentlemen have a decided objection to have any transactions with a horse-dealer, and as the last-named knows that there is a stigma hovering around his trade as a whole, he finds it necessary at times to employ means of decoy.

Commonly, one sees at the end of an

advertisement the following: "*No dealers need apply.*" Therefore, when choosing a horse from the stables of a dealer, either take it on trial for a reasonable time, say a week, and if satisfactory, get it examined by a qualified veterinary surgeon relative to its soundness or otherwise, and then complete the purchase by payment of the price; or if the veterinary examination shows some defect, ask for a reduction in accordance with that stated by the veterinary surgeon.

As an alternative suggestion—the dealer being unwilling to allow his horse on trial—buy the animal yourself at the dealer's establishment under conditions as near akin to such as you will require from it, and ask for a warranty in addition, in which the seller specifies its suitability for your purposes; also have veterinary examination. By

following the course suggested, there need be little fear of disappointment.

Buying through Advertisement.

This can be done either by answering the advertisements of some of the well-known breeders, or by advertising one's wants in either the local papers or those pertaining to agricultural or rural pursuits. Such papers as the *Field*, *Live Stock Journal*, *Farmer and Stock-Breeder*, *Irish Farming World*, *County Gentleman*, etc., are all suitable media for this purpose.

In the wording of an advertisement to purchase a horse, the age, sex, colour, markings, breed, price, etc., and specific purposes for which it is required, should all be clearly stated.

When buying a horse without being able to see it before completion of the purchase, it is essential to ascertain the names of the best veterinary practitioners in the district, so that the animal may be examined, tried, and, if needful, its value reported upon.

Many of the Live Stock Annuals contain the addresses of breeders making a speciality of the various breeds of horses, and high-class animals can be obtained in this manner.

CHAPTER II

SPECIAL PARTS AND THEIR DISEASES IN RELATION TO UNSOUNDNESS.

When choosing a horse, in order that undue advantage may not be taken of the intending purchaser, it is particularly necessary that the latter should take special notice of certain regions, in order to ascertain the presence or absence of those diseases which are acknowledged by horsemen either to interfere with the animal's utility or cause it to be of less marketable value than when free from one or more of the diseases hereafter enumerated. The plan adopted by the veterinarian is that

of systematic examination ; and it is only the professional that can conduct this methodical examination as to an animal's soundness or otherwise ; therefore the author strongly advises the buyer of high-class animals to consult with an M.R.C.V.S. before completing the purchase of a horse. However, we shall now endeavour to point out briefly the general causes of unsoundness.

The Mouth.

Examine the teeth for age, evidence of "cribbing," decay of the back teeth, etc.

The Nose.

See whether the animal has any discharge from either side of the nasal openings,

because sometimes there is disease in this region, either recent or chronic.

The Eyes.

Perfect sight is indispensable, therefore special attention should be paid to these organs.

We have known a horse, practically blind, purchased with the blinkers on by an unsuspecting farmer, and not noticed as having defective sight until some days afterwards.

An opaque (milkiness) colour over any portion of the transparent circular portion is frequently seen, and, of course, damaging.

Cataract is difficult of detection by an amateur. It is a disease affecting the lens (in chief), and one which is really incurable.

Sometimes the cataract (commencing cataract) is so small that its presence may even defy detection by the expert, and, like certain other causes of visual defect, may be the means of making the horse "shy" when passing certain or imaginary objects.

The usual method of examining the eyes at markets, etc., is by holding a black object (hat) over the globe, so as to note whether the pupil of the eye responds (widens) to the shade temporarily afforded. Many dealers do this by force of habit, but it is very doubtful whether they gain any information in most cases, and probably have little idea of the object they wish to accomplish.

The Poll.

This is a space included between the ears, and it is not uncommonly bruised, or even

the seat of disease known under the name of Poll Evil.

Glands under Jaw.

The glands beneath and at the sides of the jaw are sometimes enlarged, either temporarily or permanently.

The Neck and Mane.

A scar situated in the furrow towards the front of the neck may be the legacy of the animal having been bled for the amelioration of some disease, such as founder of the feet ; at any rate, a mark in this situation should lead to an examination of the feet, to see whether the sole is flattened or "dropped," or whether the hoof is deformed.

Of course, it may be merely accidental, but its presence in this situation should be explainable to the buyer's satisfaction.

The Withers.

Examine these for bruises, past or present.

The Shoulders.

Compare the right and left shoulders as to their equal fulness, because "slipped shoulder" is not uncommon. Also look for bruising by the collar (collar galls). White hairs in this region—or, if a light horse, darker hairs—are likely to be the sign of past sores. This need not necessarily prevent one from choosing a horse if the shoulders are well shaped, and not likely to

become easily sore again. Some horses are most troublesome over this matter, and often off duty for a long time on this account. Therefore all we have to say is, in buying such an animal, satisfy yourself that the injury will not recur, provided the collar, etc., fits properly.

The Back.

To be examined for sores (old or recent) and stiffness or deformity of the loins.

The Elbows.

The only thing to look for is bruising at the points of the elbows, producing a swelling, ending in the formation of a tumour, and constituting "capped elbow."

Sometimes an operation is performed in this region for the relief of lameness, when other means of its removal have failed.

The Knees.

Feel these to see whether there is any stiffness about them, because a stiff-kneed horse is practically valueless. Blemishing and broken knee should always be looked for. The presence of white hairs, or else a small dark patch of hair, points to either one or the other of these having happened. If so, the owner may be able to give the buyer a satisfactory explanation. Bear in mind that sellers are usually very ready—sometimes too ready—to offer explanations.

A "history of the seller" is frequently of

more value to the buyer than the "history afforded by the seller."

The inner sides of the knees need very careful looking at for marks pointing to a speedy cutter. Look both above and below the knee.

The Fetlocks and Pasterns.

The fetlocks and pasterns belonging to both fore and hind limbs are worthy of being carefully looked at for marks of brushing or cutting, puffy swelling, or general enlargement of the joint—fetlock joint. Repeated bruising in this region soon leads to enlargement of the joint, consequently diminished power to free flexion of it.

The pastern joint is frequently the seat of bony growth (ring-bone, etc.).

The Coronets.

The coronet is the band running around the top of the hoof, and liable to be bruised through the other foot treading on it. This part is also the place where one or more fistulous openings are liable to appear as the result of a punctured (etc.) foot.

Sandcrack generally starts at the top of the hoof, so that the hair hanging over the coronet should be pushed back in order to see whether this disease of the hoof is absent.

Press the coronet at the extreme back part —just where it passes on to the border of the hoof—for evidence of side-bone. This part should be quite elastic when pressed with the thumb In side-bone it does not yield, but feels "rigid," which it really is through a deposit of lime salts into the

gristle-like material composing the side plates (lateral cartilages) belonging to the wings of the pedal bones.

As a rule, it is only needful to test the fore limbs, and, of course, at the inner and outer sides. One or all of the plates may be diseased in this manner.

Although the lighter breeds have occasionally side-bone, it is chiefly confined to the heavy varieties—vanners and bussers, etc.

The Hoof.

Note whether free from sandcrack, contraction at the heels, false quarter, and flatness of sole, thrush, etc.

The fore-shoes ought to be taken off so as to get a good view of the sole, looking at

the inner quarter for corn or bruises on other parts of it.

A mealy condition of the horn, seedy-toe, dropped sole, and canker, may easily be hidden through the use of a leather sole, therefore bear these diseases in mind.

Navicular Disease.

An upright pastern, boxy hoof, contraction at the heels, a shoe worn at the toe, and a short, cat-like step on one or both feet, suggest the presence of this malady. It is confirmed by the animal being specially lame as soon as it leaves the stable, frequently disappearing after being freely exercised.

It renders a horse valueless from a monetary point of view.

The Stifle.

Disease, apart from lameness, in this part can hardly exist, so that the stifle may be passed over; but whilst here, look at the inner side of the thighs for evidence of an attack, or attacks, of "weed," leaving some thickening. Also note whether the animal has been properly castrated. There should be two scars (seams where the wounds were made), one on each side of the scrotal sac; also feel for absence of swelling of the cord.

Rigs are not at all uncommon, and the author also remembers a person who sold a hermaphrodite filly to a buyer who was anxious to spend some of his money. Both classes are usually vicious and objectionable, the last-named condition being beyond surgical aid.

The Hocks.

These should be carefully looked at, also handled. At the back of the hock or hocks, thoropin may perhaps be found, or one or both hocks "capped." When curb is present, it is denoted by a small swelling about three inches below the point of the hock, and on a line with it. Is best seen in side view. When the whole joint is much enlarged it is spoken of as "sprung hock."

Bone spavin may possibly be present on either one or both hocks; if so, it is denoted by an enlargement on the inner and lower part of the hock—just where it joins the cannon bone.

The spavin varies in size from that of a hazel-nut to that of a duck's egg or thereabout.

In a horse required for slow work, it is not necessarily a serious drawback, but its presence, of course, should call for a reduction of the market value of the horse.

A bog spavin may be a puffy condition of the hock joint.

Melanosis.

This disease is denoted by the formation of pigmented tumours in various parts of the body, either internally or externally. Evidence of such is frequently found beneath the tail.

Roaring.

This is a very common symptom of disease in connection with the respiratory organs.

It is denoted by a "roaring" sound during the intake of air. A modification of it is known as whisking.

The causes of it are variable, consequently it is sometimes curable, though not in the majority of instances. "Roarers" will often "grunt" when a threat is made to strike them.

At auctions, sellers often object to have their animals "tested for soundness of wind."

This does not necessarily indicate unsoundness in this respect.

Broken Wind.

Broken-winded horses are common enough —too common, in fact. They have no market value. There is a characteristic cough

and a double-like action when the chest is falling to compress out the air, producing a "furrow" along the wall of the chest, or a double expiration.

Shivering and Stringhalt.

These are diseases connected with the nervous system, and incurable.

The first is often not easily brought to light, whereas in other instances it is more or less always present. It is denoted by a quivering of certain groups of muscles, particularly those of the tail, so that this should be looked at in the stable, because it is most likely to show itself here by a slight elevation and quivering movement.

Stringhalt affects one or both hind limbs,

and may not be difficult of detection. The leg is jerked up suddenly. Both these diseases constitute the worst forms of unsoundness.

CHAPTER III

POINTS OF TYPICAL BREEDS.

The Shire Horse.

When choosing a horse for carting heavy loads, there is nothing to surpass the Shire, selecting by preference a gelding at six years of age, or thereabout.

The colour is more a matter of individual taste, but we like dark brown, black, bay, and roan the best, and these colours look exceedingly showy when the animal is harnessed up.

First of all, look at the general build of the body. The chest should be broad and

deep, thus allowing the lungs and heart to have full play when great strain is thrown upon them.

Horsemen sometimes speak of such an animal as being "well-hearted."

Neck thick and broad below, joining shoulders covered with deep muscles, which should lead on to a long and strong forearm.

Pay particular attention to the legs and feet.

Broad knees and short legs are typical of the well-bred Shire. When handled below the knees one should feel little beyond skin, sinews, and bone, known amongst horsemen as "clean legs." Plenty of fine silky hair below is a sign of good breeding. Broad loins and long quarters are most essential. The hocks should be clean, broad below, and free from spavin.

Too much attention cannot be paid to the feet, because if these are not good the weight of the body and work will soon tell their tale upon these structures, and once the "patching-up process" begins there is no knowing whether it will ever end to a really useful purpose, unless in the case of a mare.

The feet ought to be broad and deep, and well open at the heels and quarters, yet quite free from any tendency towards flatness. Small feet, or those which appear brittle, should prevent one from buying.

As to action, this should be observed at the walk, also during trotting. It should be full and round. Like any other class of horse, the Shire is equally liable to become the subject of disease, but, of course, it is quite impossible to enter into a description of

these beyond that of pointing out those likely to prove the most detrimental, or such as ought to be specially looked for when choosing a Shire. These are :

Side-bone, sandcrack, ring-bone, spavin, thoropin, false quarter, slipped shoulder, broken wind, roaring, wind galls, greasy legs, defective vision, shivering, and collar galls. For a full description of these diseases, readers should consult Barton's "Veterinary Manual."

The Clydesdale.

With many this breed of horse is a great favourite, but it is somewhat lighter in body than the variety last mentioned. If required for immediate work, select a Clydesdale from five to eight years of age, and either brown or

black in colour, with a ratch (white marking) on the face—the last-named being a "beauty spot"—and between 16 and 17 hands in height.

A typical Clydesdale should have broad jaws and width of forehead, with a docile countenance.

Great breadth of chest, roundness of ribs, a short, thick neck, and oblique shoulders, are a *sine quâ non*. A long back is regarded as a defect. It must be strong, and of medium length.

The shoulders, arm, and forearm should be well covered with muscles, and the last-named long; knees broad; pasterns broad; and cannon-bones "clean," with an abundance of silky hairs springing from the region of the fetlocks.

Broad quarters, with a fair length of leg,

and clean, well-shaped hocks, should be looked for when buying a horse of this variety.

Freedom from such diseases as side-bone, contracted heel, sandcrack, flatness of the feet, ring-bone, spavin, thickened sinews, etc., are necessary ; though, provided the animal be of the age indicated, and sound at the trot, a bone-spavin may not be detrimental to utility.

What has been said with reference to the feet of the Shire is equally applicable to the Clydesdale, and the same regarding the diseases to be specially looked for when choosing.

The Suffolk Horse.

For the general work of a farm, it would indeed be difficult to find a more suitable

variety than the Suffolk. The same may be said of its utility for such purposes as that of the brewer, removal of furniture, etc., or whenever moderate loads have to be carried with more speed than could be reasonably demanded from either the Shire or Clydesdale. Suffolks possess immense power, arising through having low-set shoulders, thus enabling them to take the best possible advantages of the collar during traction. The breed is very easy of recognition, even though it be crossed with some other variety of horse.

Select a Suffolk about 15½ or 16 hands, either of a light or dark chestnut, deep and round in the chest, short on the legs, and broad and clean-jointed.

A large head, full flanks, broad and strong quarters, well-sprung ribs, and the action is

bound to be good. The feet should be proportionate, and the pasterns of moderate obliquity.

As this class of horse often works at a moderate pace, such diseases as splint and curb are more likely to be found than with the Shire, Clydesdale, or others performing slow work.

The same causes of unsoundness frequent in the last-named are also liable to occur in the Suffolk (*see* "Shire"), but, we believe, exist to a much less extent.

In order to obtain some of the best specimens of this breed, it is advisable to visit some of the well-known studs, many of which exist in the county of—and those in juxtaposition to—Suffolk.

The Vanner.

Van, 'bus, and tramway horses are all much of the same stamp, and the product of a cross between a heavy draught horse and one of a lighter make. No doubt a large proportion of them are also bred from parents practically identical in size and build, so that these animals are to some extent distinctive.

Now that electric traction is supplanting the use of horses amongst the various tramway and 'bus companies, the demand must be greatly on the decline.

Both the van and 'bus horse must be broad and deep-chested, have a short, stout body, and well set on muscular limbs. The quarters should be long and the loins strong, the forearm short, and the neck deep.

As to height, select one about 16½ hands, bay, grey, or brown in colour, and about six years of age.

Large numbers of Canadian horses are brought over to this country to be sold for van and 'bus work, etc., and many of them are really first-class animals. Amongst this class of horse, splint, curb, side-bone, spavin, thickened tendons, and flat feet are frequent, and should always be looked specially for when choosing.

Hunters.

It is impossible to exercise too much care over the selection of a hunter, more particularly so where the animal is likely to be used several times a week throughout the season.

The head should be small and the neck

long, but not arched; in fact, what is known as an inclination towards ewe-neck is rather favourable than otherwise. Chest broad, body compact, but quarters should be long; loins broad, and thighs and buttocks muscular to a degree.

A high forehand and oblique shoulders, with perfect shoulder and knee action, are indispensable qualifications in a typical hunter.

All joints—but the knees and hocks especially—should be broad, and free from disease of any kind.

The slightest stiffness in these regions is quite sufficient to "warn off" a would-be purchaser.

Mere blemishes are, of course, unimportant, so long as they exist apart from other injury.

Short pasterns—of moderate slope—and toes free from any incline inwards are needful.

A sound heart, sound eyes, and freedom from vice are the first essentials to look for when selecting a hunter.

As to age, much will depend upon the individual for whom the animal is required.

For instance, many prefer a five-year-old; others a six-year, and plenty one at ten or twelve years of age.

From seven to ten years is a suitable age, provided that the animal has had several seasons' work under a good master and in a good country.

For boys and girls old hunters are preferable, provided that they have the reputation of being "canny jumpers."

A great many hunters are bought and sold

at Tattersall's (London) sales, but we recommend the intending buyer to advertise his wants in the *County Gentleman* or *Field*, etc. In this way he may be able to satisfy himself as to the animal's performances in the hunting field.

Horses attending regularly at the hunt soon acquire a reputation for good or for evil.

Either trial, warranty, or both, are desirable before purchase, and, under any circumstances, submit the animal for examination to an M.R.C.V.S.

The Hackney or Harness Horse.

The Hackney Horse Society has done much towards the improvement of this variety, consequently there are many magni-

ficent specimens of the breed in various parts of the country. Any agricultural show of standing has one or more classes for Hackneys.

The Hackney is essentially a harness horse, but it is also largely used for saddle purposes in addition.

The breed has directly descended from the Darley Arabian, a sire imported by Mr. Darley about the year 1706. This horse was the sire of "Flying Childers," who sired "Blaze," the last-named making Norfolk famous for this breed of horse.

When selecting a Hackney, try and find one not above 15½ to 16 hands,[1] having a short body, well sprung ribs, and strong loins, from four to seven years of age.

[1] Barouche horses from 16½ to 17 hands.

Look at the chest. It should be wide and deep; the shoulders long, and fairly oblique.

The neck should be short, muscular, thick, and neatly arched, supporting a head of proportionate size, with eyes giving the face an expression of "courage."

Forearm ought to be long, yet strong, and the bone (cannon) below the knee short; pasterns short, neither too upright nor over-slanting. Broad joints, free from disease, giving a fair range of movement, are typical of quality.

Many Hackneys have "extravagant" action, and we have noted over and over again how exceedingly lightly the feet are placed on the ground by many of these animals, diminishing concussion. Moderate, all-round action is the best, so far as utility for general purposes goes.

Cleanness of leg—which means freedom (so far as possible) from excess of tissue between skin and bone—is desirable.

Amongst the most frequent causes of unsoundness in the Hackney, mention must be made of: splint, bone-spavin, curb, defective vision, ring-bone, roaring, navicular disease, contracted feet, flat sole, wind sucking, corn, capped hock, etc.

The Cleveland Bay.

This variety of horse constitutes a link between the heavy breeds and Hackneys.

In height the Cleveland bay is about 16 hands, of a bay colour, with black points, but the most characteristic feature of these animals is found in the beauty of their

hindquarters, and the manner in which the tail is so gracefully attached.

The neck should be well arched, and end in deep muscular shoulders. Forearms short, because this is favourable to "good lifting of the feet."

A straight back, clean legs, and good feet, are essential qualifications of the Cleveland, whose chief use is for light van work, etc.; but this variety is very much like the Yorkshire coach horse, and can be used for similar purposes.

The Yorkshire Coach Horse.

For coaching purposes these animals need to be about 16½ or 17 hands in height, and should have stoutly-built bodies, strong

legs — of moderate length — short but muscular forearms, and powerful loins and quarters.

The coach horse—the breeding of which is encouraged by the Coach Horse Association—has necessarily diminished in numbers, his sphere of utility having become narrowed, especially within the last twenty years, through the introduction of light railways, cycles, etc., and there does not appear any chances in the future of the services of this once useful breed being reinstated.

This, of course, is no reason why the coach horse should not still be bred, because it is a stamp of horse that can be used for many other purposes, such as for char-a-banc work, etc., giving a turn-out of this class a very handsome appearance, more especially when compared with some of the inferior

animals one so often sees relegated to do this sort of work during holidays, etc.

The Thoroughbred.

In a small work of this character it is quite impossible to enter into anything more than the most simple outline of the thoroughbred, or racing horse.

The breeding and training of racers is one of the most expensive hobbies that can be indulged in, and the number of those who have bred and dealt in these animals "to profit" is certainly not equal to that of those who have been out of pocket by it.

Some of the more important points of the racer are: A straight forehead and a long head, with small, pointed ears; height from

15 to 16 hands; neck long and narrow; shoulders deep; chest deep, and back ribs short.

All thoroughbreds should have a long forearm and long pasterns, fine, firm tendons, and thin skin over all.

As to action, it is the first essential, if the animal is to become a successful racer. It should be as free as a bird—elastic to a degree.

A large number of thoroughbreds, though very promising when they are young, turn out "failures" so far as standing any chance of occupying a prominent place on the turf, consequently these animals are frequently found performing much more menial work than their original owner anticipated.

Most racers—no matter however successful their career at the races—have not a long

period of glory on the course, owing to the tremendous exertion they are called upon to execute during a race.

The Park Hack.

One of the first essentials of a saddle horse is that it should have the best of manners, both in and out of the stable, yet be full of energy and spirit.

When choosing a saddle horse, the height of it must be regulated by that of the rider, but from 14½ hands up to 16 hands will be found to meet the wants of the generality of horsemen ; build of body in proportion. Bay, chestnut, black, and brown are the most suitable colours to select, all being showy. Do

not select one having "high" action, but a hack with rather low, yet stylish, knee and hock movements.

Slight flatness at sides is an advantage, and the thighs and buttocks should be round; neck of medium length; chest wide, and body on the short, cobby side; head light, and carried neither high nor low (medium carriage).

A sweet temper is indispensable, more particularly so if for a lady, aged, or nervous rider.

With reference to age, we should not advise selecting one under five years, preferably six or seven.

Before purchasing, you should ride the animal in traffic, because it is necessary that a park hack should pass road tractions, motor cars, electric cars, and be free from

nervousness in the presence of various and suddenly developed sounds.

When selecting, try and avoid buying an animal having the slightest inclination towards upright pasterns, because this gives a stilty gait, consequently a very unpleasant sensation to the rider. Moderate slope of pastern is the best.

Chief amongst the defects to be looked for in the park hack are: spavin, flatness of soles, navicular disease, broken wind, roaring or whistling, defective vision, thoropin, saddle galls (old ones being indicated by white hairs on the saddle-bed), splint (if on the outside or near to knee), old scars at the angles of the mouth (indicative of a puller), curb, capped hock, thickened tendons, and lastly, corn (*see* these diseases dealt with elsewhere).

When the vendor of a hack brings an animal from a distance to show the intending buyer, have the saddle removed, the feet washed, and the horse then placed for about an hour in the stable, so that when it is brought out for inspection any signs of lameness, etc., will probably be observed.

The Saddle and Harness Cob.

Those who are desirous of selecting a cob equally suitable for saddle and harness use cannot do better than advertise their wants in the columns of the *Field* or *County Gentleman*, because a really first-class animal of this sort is not very easily obtained in the sale ring.

Try and purchase a cob five years of age, a gelding by preference, from 14½ to 14·3

hands, preferably of a bay, brown, chestnut, or black colour. Try the animal both in saddle and harness, and where there is traffic, if possible. Good manners are indispensable. Head free from heaviness—many cobs are very ugly in this region—and well carried.

Neck short and muscular, ending in shoulders having a moderate degree of slope.

The chest should be broad, and the ribs not over-round, as this is objectionable in a saddle horse. Flanks short. Pay particular attention to the legs and feet.

Clean legs are what is required.

Good, broad joints, well shaped and free from all swellings of any kind, stiffness, etc.

Do not buy a cob for work of this kind that has high action, but one having good and stylish all-round lifting.

Avoid purchasing one that turns its toes

outwards or inwards ; that brushes or speedy cuts.

As to the feet, these should be proportionate, and free from flatness of sole, contracted heels, sandcrack, brittleness, corn and thrush, all of which (excepting two) constitute unsoundness.

A slight splinty deposit, if well placed on the cannon bone, is immaterial, but have nothing to do with an animal required for fast work having a bone-spavin, curb, or corns.

Thickened tendons, puffy joints, and saddle-sores should be sufficient to prevent buying.

Like any other class of horse, the cob is liable to have defects in connection with its respiratory apparatus, the chief of which are roaring and broken wind.

To test the animal for the first-named, give it a good smart gallop uphill under the saddle. For evidence of the latter, use gentle pressure with the fingers upon the upper part of the throat. If broken-winded, it will provoke a soft cough characteristic of this disease.

Zebroids.

A typical animal of this breed is shown in our frontispiece illustration, which is the produce of a zebra and a mare.

The species of zebra considered the best for crossing with the mare is that known as Burchell's, which is common in certain parts of Africa, and is altogether of stouter build than the mountain species of zebra.

In accordance with the variety of dam selected will vary the build and pace of the

animal. For instance, a Clydesdale or Shire mare put to zebra sire will produce much heavier progeny than when a thoroughbred or Hackney mare has been employed.

At several of the large agricultural shows classes have become established for zebroids, which may largely, in course of time, supplant the mule.

The colours vary, but they are such as: Brown bay, striped black, bay with brown stripes, grey with black stripes, etc.

These animals are said to be immune to Cape horse-sickness—a recommendation.

Mules.

These animals are chiefly used abroad for transport work, and are, like the zebroid, immune from certain maladies.

In general, their height is 14 to 15 hands, and colour brown.

Freedom from vice, and good legs and feet, are to be looked for when choosing.

These hybrids are produced by an ass for a sire and a mare as dam.

The terms jennet or hinny are applicable if the sire is a horse, and the mother of the donkey tribe.

The constitution of the mule is usually very robust, and these animals can live well where many a horse would find that it had been put on starvation rations.

The Shetland Pony.

This breed of pony is particularly suitable for children's use, provided that the animals be properly broken.

Large quantities of these ponies are brought over from Shetland and landed in Aberdeen, in which city they can often be bought very cheaply; and it is usually a simple enough matter to break them to both saddle and harness. Numbers of them are left "entire," and can be used satisfactorily in this condition, though we advise that, for very young children at any rate, a purchaser should have the same castrated, as it renders them very much more docile.

Breeding of the Shetland pony is largely carried on in this country; in fact, the most typical specimens are probably all home-bred.

There is, however, a disposition, under these circumstances, for the Shetland to increase in size, thus losing its one desirable feature, viz., smallness; and it is not an easy matter to find them under 9 or 10

hands, 8 being rather the exception than otherwise.

Black, brown, and bay are the usual colours, but iron grey, etc., are not unfrequently met with.

The head, wide at the nose, should be set on a short, thick neck ; the back short, and round, cobby quarters ; chest deep, and ribs well sprung ; flanks short.

The legs should be strongly built, but quite free from coarseness ; the tendons wiry and fine ; feet small, but not contracted at the heels or "boxy" in front ; knee and hock joints broad below, but not coarse.

Many Shetlands have very poor movement, so that when buying, if the animal has really good action, other faults (unless really damaging) might be forgiven.

As to age, try and get one at three or four years, and, with kindness, it is wonderful how soon these miniature horses can be taught to do what children can reasonably expect from them.

If bought as "foals" (yearlings), and trained amongst bairns, their fondness for these is naturally increased.

The Iceland Pony.

Large quantities of these ponies are brought into this country from Iceland.

They are remarkably hardy, and quite suitable for children's use, work in coal-pits, etc.

In colour they vary greatly, but light chestnut, bay, and duns are the commonest colours.

Hardy and good thrivers on poor pasturage are their chief recommendations, but some of them have very good action, and can be trimmed up to look "thoroughly respectable."

Icelanders make admirable ponies for greengrocers, etc., and their selling prices are such as to be within the reach of those who are in any way ambitious "to keep a pony," or, as is often the case, a pony may be the means of keeping its owner.

Welsh Ponies.

Many of these ponies are really high-class and it is a breed that we have every confidence in recommending to those who are quite willing to give but a moderate price, and who wish an elegant animal.

These ponies are hardy, good mountaineers, and frequently stylish and fast.

Try and buy a four-year-old, brown in colour, and from 11 to 13 hands (or for a cob, 14 hands), preferably one that has been broken and driven in town.

The best method of getting really good specimens is to make application to some of the breeders in Wales, or by advertisement in a Welsh daily paper, taking the precaution, of course, not to buy without seeing or appointing some qualified veterinary surgeon to go and inspect the pony, and, if he thinks it likely to suit, to examine it as to soundness.

The addresses of any veterinary practitioners in the locality can be had through the seller, etc.

Polo Ponies.

When selecting a pony for polo, try and get one with a long back and short loins, low withers, long muscular shoulders, and neck inclined to be carried upright.

All the joints should be strong and free from any disease that will interfere with their full play.

Blemishes are unimportant; the same may be said of colour and age, but the height ought not to be above 14 hands.

The Arab cross is an advantage, but many polo ponies are bred without any real idea as to their suitability for this special work. Fabulous prices are frequently paid for ponies which have earned a reputation on such grounds as Hurlingham and Ranelah.

Exmoor Ponies.

These ponies are from 11 to 13½ hands (or thereabout) in height, and generally bay, chestnut, dun, or black in colour, and have short muscular bodies, good limbs, and, as a rule, very good feet.

Within recent years the breed has been very much improved, and numerous high-class studs exist. It is a hardy variety of pony, and when trained, useful for both saddle and harness purposes.

To obtain good specimens, it is desirable to advertise one's wants in one of the local papers of the district from which these ponies come.

Dartmoor and New Forest ponies can best be obtained in the same manner.

Orkney Cobs.

A considerable number of these animals find their way into the northern fairs and markets, especially in and around Aberdeenshire.

They are stoutly built, hardy, but lacking in qualities indicative of well-bred Southern cobs. They are very hardy, their prices are not usually high, and are suitable for rough work on small holdings, driving to market, etc.

A LIST OF HORSE SOCIETIES

CHAPTER IV

HORSE SOCIETIES.

THE following are the names and addresses of the principal organisations for the improvement of the various breeds of horses. For full particulars regarding stud animals, pedigrees, etc., application should be made to the various Secretaries.

Shire Horse Society.

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. J. SLOUGHGROVE,
12 Hanover Square,
London, W.

Clydesdale Horse Society.

Mr. A. MacNeilage,
93 Hope Street,
Glasgow.

Suffolk Horse Society.

Mr. F. Smith,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.

The Yorkshire Coach Horse Society.

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. J. White,
Appleton, Roebuck,
Yorkshire.

The Cleveland Bay Horse Society.

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. F. W. Horsfall,
Potto Grange,
Northallerton, Yorks.

The Hunters' Improvement Society.

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. A. B. CHARLTON,
12 Hanover Square,
London.

Trotting Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

Mr. CATHCART,
7 Trinity Square,
Brixton,
London, S.W.

The Hackney Horse Society.

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. H. EUREN,
12 Hanover Square,
London, W.

Also same address (F. EUREN) for London Coach Horse Parade Society.

The Polo Pony Society.

Secretary:

Mr. F. R. Hill,
Felhampton Court,
Church Stretton.

Shetland Pony Society.

Secretary:

Mr. R. R. Ross,
35 Market Street,
Aberdeen.

New Forest Pony Society.

Secretary:

Mr. St. Barbe,
Lymington,
Hampshire.

General Stud Book (for Racers).

Hon. Secretary:

Mr. WEATHERBY,

Newmarket.

CHAPTER V

AGE OF THE HORSE.

When purchasing a horse, it is necessary to exercise particular care with reference to its age, because its utility and pecuniary value is to a large extent regulated by the latter.

Moreover, the seller of an old horse commonly makes a practice of representing the animal to be "seven"—certainly not beyond eight—all the time knowing that the animal is probably from sixteen to twenty years of age.

Deception as to age is certainly one of the most prevalent tricks the horse vendor

indulges in, applying it without fear of being accused of dishonesty, because he pleads ignorance if he happens to fall under the thumb of an expert. In other instances the possessor of a young horse may find it desirable to state that it is considerably older than it actually is.

Quite recently the writer went to examine a horse "said" to be four years, but with teeth indicative of a two-year-old. The general appearances of an animal—apart from the examination of its teeth—are at times of a truly deceptive nature, so that the amateur should endeavour to gain sufficient knowledge by an inspection of the teeth, thus preventing advantage being taken when he meets with an unscrupulous vendor.

After carefully studying our remarks upon the age, the beginner should make it a rule

to examine the teeth of every horse affording him an opportunity of so doing. In this way one may soon become very expert.

The age of the horse is judged by the following conditions, so far as some of these are applicable :

1. *Whether the teeth are* **temporary** *or* **permanent.**

2. *Amount of wear upon their nipping and grinding surfaces.*

3. *Season of the year when the "temporary" teeth are "cut," or "replaced" by "permanent" ones.*

4. *Appearance of the lower corner teeth when the mouth is open and when it is closed.*

The number of **temporary teeth** is 24, and in the mare there are 36 **permanent**

ones, with 4 tusks (not usually present in the last-named) in the horse, making a total of 40 teeth, arranged in the following order :

6 molars in each side of the upper and lower jaws, - - -	24
6 incisors or nipping teeth, above and below, - - - -	12
Tusks (if present), 2 above and 2 below, - - - -	4
	40

The 4th, 5th, and 6th molar teeth in each jaw are always *permanent*, the 4th one not making its appearance until about 9 months to 1 year, followed by the 5th at 18 months or thereabout, becoming level with the rest of the molars by the time the animal reaches two years.

It is not until about 3½ years that one finds the sixth molar in the mouth.

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd molar teeth are all temporary ones, and, of course, replaced by "permanents," which takes place at or about 2½ years for the 1st and 2nd, but not until four years for the 3rd one.

The incisor or nipping teeth are all *temporary*, but the tusks or canines are permanent from the date of their appearance, which is usually about the fourth year.

By far the most general way of ascertaining the horse's age is by reference to the *incisor teeth* only, being the most convenient; reference to the molars, as a rule, is only necessary should there be any doubt as to the correct age.

The chief differences between temporary and permanent incisor teeth are as follows:

Temporary Incisors.

(*a*) There is little or no groove down the front of the tooth.

(*b*) The neck or constricted portion, *i.e.*, where the tooth joins the gum, is very plain.

(*c*) Teeth small and narrow, very white and short.

Permanen Incisors.

(*a*) Vertical groove well marked.

(*b*) Practically absent.

(*c*) Comparatively large, broad, and deeply embedded into the gum.

The best method of learning to recognise a temporary from a permanent incisor tooth

is by self-observation upon the mouth of a colt between 2½ and 3 or 4 years, when both forms of teeth will be observable for comparison.

The incisor teeth are spoken of as Centrals, Laterals, and Corners, in accordance with the positions they occupy in the mouth, the terms being sufficiently explanatory to indicate this.

Shortly after birth the foal has a couple of "central" teeth in each jaw, followed by the appearance of the laterals within the next six or eight weeks.

From this time up to about eight months the only change taking place comprises the development of the centrals and laterals, but at or about eight months the corner incisor teeth appear, all, of course, "paired" in both jaws, the difference in appearance as to time

of corresponding teeth being insignificant and quite useless when forming an estimate of the animal's age.

The young animal has now a complete set of temporary incisor teeth, and these remain in its mouth until it has turned two years, the jaw meanwhile expanding, and the teeth becoming worn on their nipping surfaces.

It is very important to be able to distinguish a "yearling" from a "two-year old." In both there is a complete set of temporary incisors.

This can be settled up at once. Refer to the molars. It is 1½ years before the

Fifth Molar

shows itself, and it is not level with the

other four until the animal is practically a couple of years old.

Hence one has a ready means of clearing away any doubt upon the point.

At 2 years and 3 months or thereabouts, 3 years and 3 months, and 4 years and 3 months, there will be signs (though not, as a rule, in horses bred in the North of Scotland) of casting of the centrals, laterals, and corners respectively at the aforementioned dates; at any rate, in the animal of 2½ years, 3½ years, 4½ years, the centrals, laterals, and corners will be half-way up, leaving spaces between the opposing teeth, when viewed with the mouth closed.

Three months later the centrals have grown in length, so that their edges now meet.

The same statement applies to the laterals

and corners, therefore at 2⅓ years, 3⅓ years, and 4⅓ years, the teeth, cut three months before, will touch the edges of the corresponding teeth in the upper row.

At 3 years the front edges of the centrals (lower are usually referred to only) will be slightly worn.

How shall we know whether such-and-such a horse is rising "3" (2 years and 9 months), or 3 off (3 years and 3 months)?

If the cutting surfaces—tables, as they are called—are worn both on the front and back edges, the animal may be judged 3 off, confirmed by evidence that the laterals will soon be cast off.

A four-year-old is readily told by the lateral incisors being worn on their front edges, but it is, as in the case of the "three-year-old," needful to be able to

judge whether the animal is rising 4 or 4 off.

The same statement is applicable, viz., if the hinder edge of the laterals shows a very moderate degree of wear, and the "*corners*" are about to appear, then it is the best positive evidence of 4 years "off."

If the wear is chiefly confined to the front edge of the laterals, and there is no sinking or redness around the gum at the corners, it is pretty safe to say that the horse is "rising" 4 years.

A five-year old "rising" or "off" is told in precisely the same manner, excepting, of course, that there are no more incisor teeth to be shed.

A horse which is 5 "off" shows very little wear on the front edges of the "corner incisors," whereas if it is "rising" 5 there

is no wear on them, because these teeth do not generally touch the edges of the corresponding upper ones until the fifth birthday.

A very important matter is that of being able to distinguish between a horse "rising" 6 years and one 6 "off," a task certainly not easy for an amateur.

The best evidence of this is afforded by referring to the shape of the tables of the central and lateral incisors, and the amount of wear that the edges of the corner incisors have undergone.

If the "central" mark (infundibulum) of the corner teeth has the front and hinder edge evenly worn around it, and the mark in the "centrals" is almost gone, one may conclude the age as 6 "off."

The differences between a six and seven-year-old horse is equally important.

We shall endeavour to give a summary of the chief distinctive features at these ages :—

Sixth Birthday.

(*a*) Central "*mark*" of corner incisors long and deep.

(*b*) Central incisors are somewhat flattened.

Seventh Birthday.

(*a*) Central "mark" very shallow, and well worn on hinder edge of tooth.

(*b*) Distinctly triangular.

(*c*) Laterals broader.

The differences between a horse at 7

years and one at 8 are pretty distinct if the teeth are carefully noted.

In a horse at 7 the "mark" in the **centrals** and **laterals** is **elongated,** whereas in one at 8 years the "mark" is more or less distinctly **triangular.**

When a horse reaches its 8th birthday, it is usual to speak of the animal as "aged," and, so far as its marketable value is concerned, it is on the decline.

We do not wish to imply that because a horse happens to be 9 or 10 years of age that it may not be quite as valuable for work as one, say, at 6 or 7 years.

However this may be, dealers make it a point to represent—whenever desirable for them to do so—as "not exceeding 8," knowing the popular idea that a horse falls in value after it reaches 8 years.

From 8 to 12 a horse may be considered as "aged"; after this date as "old."

Many horses will keep their condition and perform work in the best of style up to 30 years of age, and in exceptional instances considerably beyond this.

Mr. Galvayne, many years ago, showed that when a horse reaches 10 years a small groove begins to show itself at the top part of the upper corner incisor.

In the course of another 5 or 6 years it extends about half-way down the tooth, reaching the bottom within the next 5 years or so.

The author—and doubtless thousands of other observers—has found this to be the case, but in many instances it is inapplicable, certain horses having the whole of

their teeth grooved all the way down, though perhaps only 10 or 15 years of age.

Thoroughbred horses arrive at maturity earlier than others, and the date of their birth is reckoned from 1st January; others from May.

In the North of Scotland mares mostly foal about the middle of May.

CHAPTER VI

SOME OBJECTIONABLE HABITS.

The following are popularly known as "vices," and, their presence being known to an intending buyer, should, we think, deter him from purchasing; or, in the event of a "general" warranty having been given by the seller, and the buyer is in a position to prove the presence of such at the time of purchase, there is sufficient reason for returning the animal to the vendor, with legal action subsequently if needful.

Wind-Sucking.

This is a very objectionable practice, and many wind-suckers also bite the stable fittings, especially if wooden ones. Once acquired, the habit continues, and leads to digestive complaints, consequently such animals are generally not the most thrifty.

Wind-sucking is denoted by a "gulping" sound, heard at frequent, but irregular, intervals.

To mitigate this evil habit, a strap is commonly worn around the upper part of the throat.

Crib-Biting.

Constantly biting the fittings leads to wear of the fronts of the incisor teeth.

A wooden manger and the halter rope are favourite articles for the crib-biters' operations.

We notice that idleness predisposes to crib-biting, especially if the animal has not an unlimited supply of hay or straw to grind away at when left in the stable for several days together.

It is a most annoying habit, and the best way to prevent it is to have the fittings bound with iron or zinc sheeting, or do away with all such parts as can be seized by the crib-biter; but these animals will almost seize hold of anything within their reach.

Weaving.

The head and forequarters are more or

less constantly in motion, interfering with the animal's rest.

It is not usually difficult to detect animals in the stable having this peculiarity.

Other Vices.

Kicking in or out of harness, backing, etc., are all highly objectionable, and even dangerous.

Many horsemen are able to speedily spot a vicious horse in a stable. Animals of this class frequently "swish" their tails, throw back their ears, and indicate malicious intent through the expression of their eyes.

The only advice the writer can give regarding animals of this description is to try and stand clear, no matter whatever good qualities their owner may see in them.

CHAPTER VII

A LIST OF THE PRINCIPAL HORSE FAIRS AND APPROXIMATED DATES.

BANBRIDGE, Co. Down, Ireland, -	January 12
Banbury—three days before the first Thursday after the 18th of the month.	
Cockermouth, - -	February 17 and 18
Wigton, - -	,, 19
Kendal, - -	,, 22
Beverley, - -	,, 23
Downham, - -	March 1, 2, and 3
Durham—Last Friday of this month.	
Apperley—Second Wednesday, and two days before - -	June
Banbridge, - - -	,, 10
Cahirme, - -	July 12
Topcliffe, - -	,, 17 and 18
Munster, - -	,, 29

Mullingar (*see* August), - July 4
Kells, - - - - ,, 13
Ripley, - - - August 26
Mullingar, - - - ,, 29
Barnet (near London), - - Sept. 4, 5, 6
The first Monday of this month Athlone Fair is held.
Borough Hill (Westmoreland). Very good, as a rule, and well attended, - - - Sept. 30
Banagher, - Sept. 15, 16, 17, 18.
Ballinasloe (Ireland)—This is held on the first Tuesday of October, and is one of the best fairs held in Ireland.
Peterboro', - - - October 6
Kells, - - - - ,, 16
Munster, - - - ,, 28
Newcastle is held on the last Monday of this month.

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Press Opinions on

The Curse of Central Africa.

"It would be affectation to deny that the appearance of the present volume has not been awaited with considerable interest and curiosity by the increasing numbers of people in this country who have become painfully sensitive on the subject of our national responsibility for the existence, and consequently for the actions of the Congo Free State. For some years past, charges more or less definite have been made against the officials of the local administration in Africa, involving not merely an utter disregard of the rights of property of the natives, but the most callous and inhuman contempt for life. The higher officials, both on the Congo and in Brussels, have been charged with complicity in the crimes of their subordinates, partly by reason of their neglect to detect and punish the atrocities committed by their agents, and partly because these crimes are, it is alleged, the direct and necessary result of the policy adopted and sanctioned by the State for the exploitation of the natural products of the country. To these charges the official answer has been a general denial of their accuracy, with a plea that it is impossible altogether to avoid misconduct on the part of agents serving under peculiarly trying conditions, remote from the central authority, and therefore difficult to control; but that wherever specific acts of misconduct have been brought home to any particular officer, steps have at once been taken to bring him to trial, and that when he has been found guilty he has been punished with the utmost severity. It has further been the custom of the Free State and its apologists to weaken the effect of the charges brought against it by suggesting that when made by former officials they are advanced for interested motives. The volume published to-day is the joint work of a former officer in the British Army who was, for two periods of three years each, in the service of the Free State, and of an American citizen who was also at one time in the service of the State, and subsequently revisited the Congo as an agent of one of the commercial companies in which the State authorities hold half the share capital. We gather, however, from a long introduction signed by Mr. J. G. Leigh, that the writer of the introduction has had a considerable share in the production of the volume, which, unfortunately, bears signs of its composite authorship. On a cursory examination, at least, we have not found it always easy to distinguish whether it is Captain Burrows or Mr. Canisius who is the narrator, due, probably, to defective

arrangement of the material. It is also much to be regretted that the photographs should have been so very badly reproduced that they are in several instances quite useless for the purpose which they are avowedly intended to serve. But these matters, though by no means unimportant in what is intended as a formal indictment of the methods employed by the Congo State Administration, are defects of form rather than of substance, and it is in the material parts of the indictment that the real interest of the volume will be found. It has been suggested that the statements made in the book may probably form the subject of investigation before a court of law. We do not know how far this suggestion is likely to be realised, but in any case, we do not propose to anticipate the result of such an inquiry, should it be held, by discussing in detail the evidence which is adduced by the authors in this volume. Without committing ourselves to the opinion that an English court of law, with its very rigid rules of evidence, is the best tribunal for conducting an inquiry which must necessarily, if it is to be at all exhaustive, cover a very wide field, we may point out that we have always strongly urged the imperative necessity that an inquiry should be held into the appalling charges made against the Congo Administration. That view has been further strengthened by an examination of the volume now under review. Some of the charges here made, with a particularity of names and dates which enables their accuracy to be put to the test, are of so atrocious and appalling a character that the mind instinctively revolts at the idea that a civilised country can have produced monsters capable of the deeds alleged to have been committed. It is simply impossible that these charges can remain without investigation. The Sovereign of the Congo Free State cannot ignore them; nor can the Governments responsible for the creation of the Congo Free State decline to recognise their responsibility in this matter. Moreover, it is not sufficient to attempt to discredit the authors because they both appear to have been willing to re-enter the service of the State for a further term. In the introduction Mr. Leigh quotes some correspondence which passed between Captain Burrows and the Congo Administration, and between Mr. Canisius and the Administration. We frankly confess that we do not like the idea that, with the knowledge they had of its methods, Captain Burrows and Mr. Canisius should have been willing to re-engage themselves in the service of the Free State; but, as we have said, that circumstance in no way detracts from the necessity for a full, public, and impartial inquiry into the charges now publicly made against the Congo Administration, for if those charges are well-founded, they

constitute not merely an outrage on the conscience of the civilised world, but a menace to the future work of every European Power which has taken on itself the responsibility for the good government of any portion of Equatorial Africa."
—*Morning Post.*

"Messrs. R. A. Everett & Co. publish 'The Curse of Central Africa,' by Capt. Guy Burrows, with which is incorporated 'A Campaign amongst Cannibals,' by Edgar Canisius, the volume being marked 'Second Impression,' for reasons which are not completely explained in the introduction from the pen of Mr. John George Leigh. It it stated in the introduction that legal proceedings have been threatened on behalf of the Congo State by Sir Hugh Gilzean Reid, whose name is twice misspelt. We may say at once that the introduction and also the portion of the book which is from the pen of Mr. Canisius, an American, contain detailed statements with regard to a well-known Belgian officer, Major Lothaire, which might be made the basis of legal proceedings in our courts. Many of the Belgian officers who are named in the volume are beyond all doubt men whose shameful and shocking proceedings could not possibly be defended before an English jury. But the case of Major Lothaire is different. He is not without friends and admirers, even in this country, and although he became unpopular here after he shot Stokes, yet Stokes was not above reproach, and there is a Belgian side to that transaction. If it is to be established that the statements in the volume before us are in any degree exaggerations, it is by Major Lothaire, we think, that such proof can possibly be offered. The true case against the Congo State is made by Mr. Fox-Bourne in an admirable book which we recently reviewed, and it is doubtful how far it is strengthened by the more detailed and much more sensational statements put forward in the present volume upon evidence which may or may not be sufficient. The book is an odd one in its construction. Capt. Guy Burrows begins, as it were, in the middle of his story, for he merely states in his first paragraph that 'at the expiration of a year's leave . . . I left Antwerp on the 6th of June, 1898, to resume my duties as Commissioner.' His contribution to the volume is followed by that of Mr. Canisius, but it is not clear at what point this second section ends, nor who is the author of the last part—which is political, and follows Mr. Fox-Bourne, Mr. E. D. Morel, and the Belgian writers who have published accounts of the Congolese administration. The book may be lightened for the general public, and especially for those of them who are fond of horrors, by the photographs, some of which have

already appeared elsewhere, though all are not of a nature to create confidence. The first photographs, after the portraits of Capt. Burrows and the Sovereign of the Congo State, are two which face each other, but one is merely an enlargement of the other, apparently inserted for some purpose of verification which is not clear. This photograph bears signs of having been touched, and therefore strikes a note which is unfortunate. It is also an unhappy fact that the authors will set against them a good deal of opinion which ought to have been on their side, on account of the statement, in the Burrows part of the book, that many of the missionaries are men who have resorted to the Congo State 'with a desire to escape unpleasant consequences resulting from some form of indiscretion or other.' Many of the missionaries in the Congo State are men of the highest repute in their religious bodies. To some of them we owe the most complete and the most trustworthy exposure of the horrors of Congolese administration which has been made. It is the case that much has been said against the missionaries for having given countenance to the proceedings of the King of the Belgians. Those who, like Mr. Thomas Bayley, M.P., in a recent speech to a Baptist gathering at Nottingham, have felt it their plain duty to censure the conduct of missionaries of their own denomination, will find their hands weakened by the unjust and unfair charge here made by Capt. Burrows. What can be truly said is bad enough. In reply to Mr. Bayley, a gentleman was sent down, apparently from the headquarters of the Baptist missions in London, to state that the Baptists could not but be grateful to the King of the Belgians, who had reduced by fifty per cent. the taxation upon their missionary property, and that the recent deputation to Brussels to express confidence in the humanity of the King was justified by this reduction. A more terrible admission we have never known. The contribution of Mr. Canisius to the volume is thoroughly deserving of attention, and, as he is evidently a serious observer, we note the inaccuracy of his statement that 'the African, as a general rule, is not suitable material for the making of a good soldier.' This is supported by a reference to 'the scandalous conduct of some of the negro regiments of the United States.' The last allusion is to circumstances unknown to us. We had always heard and believed that the Government of the United States had had reason to congratulate itself upon its black troops, both in the Civil War and in the recent war with Spain. Undoubtedly, however, African regiments, recruited with care, have produced admirable results, and the French Senegalese levies are among the best troops in the world, as are the Egyptian Soudanese. The index is feeble, and we note the

misprint of Wa*n*ters for the well-known Belgian name of Wa*u*ters.—*Athenæum.*

"Following Mr. Fox-Bourne's 'Civilisation in Congoland,' which we noticed on its appearance, this volume should serve, if anything will, to make English readers realise the appalling state of things that prevails in Central Africa. Captain Burrows was formerly in the service of the Congo State, as was Mr. Edgar Canisius, whose experiences among the cannibals are incorporated with the Captain's narrative. In addition to the verbal record, the imagination of the reader is assisted by reproductions of photographs of barbarities that have taken place. The result is a compilation of descriptive and pictorial horrors that no healthy-minded person would turn to except from a sense of duty. But for all who can do anything to influence public opinion that duty exists, for the driving home of the facts must precede any hope of effective action. With the main heads of the indictment against the Congo Free State those who take any interest in the question are already familiar. Its agents are paid by commission on the rubber and ivory produced from their several districts, and no inconvenient questions are asked or effective restrictions laid down as to the treatment by which the natives are made to serve the most lucrative purpose. Agents guilty of misdemeanours in the Congo are, as Captain Burrows puts it, 'liable to be prosecuted only by a Government which indirectly employs them, and is likely to benefit by their offences'—the result of which ingenious provision for 'justice' can be easily imagined. As a matter of fact the natives are exploited with an unscrupulous barbarity happily without known parallel. The callousness with which white people regard their black fellow-creatures belongs more or less to every nation, but Captain Burrows has come to the conclusion that 'not the worst can be accused of such systematic, comprehensive and cold-blooded misdeeds as those which during the past fifteen years have made of the Congo State a veritable charnel-house.'

"Of the Belgian officers who have so active and responsible a share in these cruelties, Captain Burrows speaks in quite unflattering terms, apart from their treatment of the blacks. 'Arrogant,' 'ill-bred,' 'cowardly' are some of the epithets which he applies to the type; and they are represented as taking delight in the infliction of pain and humiliation on any one in their power, including their own countrymen. If this be so, it makes it necessary to take with qualification Captain Burrows's frequent suggestion that it is the system rather than the men that must be held responsible for the Congo atrocities;

whereas his picture of the men would seem to show that, whatever the system under which they worked, they would turn it to barbarous use. This tendency to make the system share the blame appears even in what is said of the notorious Major Lothaire :—'The system of butchery which has been inaugurated in the Mongalla concession is directly traceable to him, although he has always been sufficiently wily not to place any written proof of this where it could be brought against him. . . . His hasty and despotic treatment of the blacks, as shown in the massacre at Bau, had due effect upon his subordinates, by whom he has been regarded as a hero since the day he lynched a British subject, Stokes, a white man. . . . It is, however, mere justice to add that Major Lothaire is a brave, usually even-tempered, and, I firmly believe, not naturally hard-hearted man. For many of his faults and much of the ill that he has done, the system of the Congo must be held primarily responsible.'

"One of the first and most natural questions to be asked is, How far does the influence of missionaries avail to lessen those awful evils? And the answer, at least as given by Captain Burrows, is disappointing. We need not quote at length his personal opinion of the missionaries he has met in the Congo. Of some he evidently thought highly; others he writes down as weak-chinned and the wrong men for the work'; others, again, he does not hesitate to describe as 'rank.' But, taking the men as they are, what have they done for the protection of the natives? According to what we are here told, practically nothing. Incidentally, they may do something to ameliorate the condition of those around them, but on such vital matters as the collection of rubber and ivory and forced recruiting, they are powerless. 'They are fairly in the toils of a most immoral corporation, and they are obliged to frame their actions according to its dictates. They have no option in this matter. If they became in the least degree troublesome; if they denounced a single one of the crying evils that surround their daily lives; if they taught the native the iniquity of the conditions under which he is made to live and groan, they would soon cease to be missionaries in the Congo State.'

"It is possible that this picture of missionary impotence is overdrawn, but it is best that Captain Burrows's view of the case should be widely known amongst the friends of missions. Many would be ready to say that acquiescence in nameless cruelties is too great a price for religious teachers under any circumstances to pay; but one effect of the publication of this book will probably be authorised statements from the missionaries' point of view, such as that by the Baptist Missionary

Society, which we give elsewhere. As to whether anything can be done to improve matters, Captain Burrows indicates his own opinion with sufficient clearness. Belgium ought to be deprived of the government, and the Congo partitioned amongst the three principal Powers possessing adjoining territory, viz., England, France, and Germany. This, of course, is easier to put on paper than to perform in practice; but the Powers which sanctioned the creation of the Congo State at the Berlin Conference of 1885 cannot shake off their responsibility for what has happened. Failing action on their part, civilisation, to say nothing of Christianity, will continue to see Central Africa made a shamble in order that the Belgians may 'gather' rubber at a fabulous profit. As a parting gleam of light, and as showing that something can be done by a humane official, we may mention that, when commissioner at Basoko, Captain Burrows succeeded in suppressing the flogging of women. He declares that he has evidence to prove that before his arrival half-a-dozen women were flogged every day."—*Christian World.*

"As the first edition is marked 'Second Impression,' it may be presumed that this much-talked-of volume has been toned down since the publisher was threatened with libel actions, and that some of the passages included for the 'first impression' have been prudently cancelled. The volume, as we have it, at any rate, makes fewer attacks on individuals than we were led to expect. It does not for that reason lose any of its value as an impeachment of the methods of Congo State administration. In some other respects, however, it is disappointing. Though Capt. Burrows's name appears as its principal author, about half the volume consists of 'A Campaign amongst Cannibals,' contributed by Mr. Edgar Canisius, and with both writers' compositions Mr. J. G. Leigh, the editor, admits that he has taken great liberties. He has 'ventured to modify' Capt. Burrows's work 'as originally planned and completed,' and he leads us to suppose that he has practically written, or re-written, all Mr. Canisius's chapters, besides supplying the lengthy introduction which he signs. Even if in this way the literary quality of the book is improved, its authority is weakened as a record of first-hand information. It is unfortunate, moreover, that both writers should have to admit that, after several years' service under the Congo Government, and experience of the abominations in which, as servants of the State, they had to take part, they were willing to renew their occupations, and have only made their disclosures now that their offers have been rejected. Whatever defects may be found in the book, however, it affords very valuable confirmation of charges that have re-

peatedly, and within the past few months with special emphasis, been brought against King Leopold and his agents. Capt. Burrows spent six years in various parts of the Congo, principally in the regions near Stanley Falls, where, according to Mr. Leigh, 'he fulfilled the very repugnant duties imposed upon him by his official positions to the entire satisfaction of the authorities,' and it must be set down to his credit that he appears to have done whatever little he could in lessening the evils that he could not prevent. The Balubas, 'a docile and interesting people,' with whom he came in contact while he was in charge of the Riba-Riba or Lokandu station, far beyond Stanley Falls, seem to have been especially befriended by him. 'About this time,' he tells us, 'large numbers of Baluba slaves commenced to arrive at my post, frequently 300 in a batch. These people had been captured by the commandant, and carried off to work as slaves in the stations and on the plantations of the State. Many died of hunger and exposure, and quite a number, too sick to proceed, remained at the post. Those whom I succeeded in curing continued at Lokandu during the rest of my stay, and were employed on the plantations and other work. By treating them kindly I gained their confidence, and on moonlight nights they would sing for me their native songs and dance the Baluba dances.'

"His labours as a State slave-driver must certainly have been irksome. He says: 'Nearly all the disputes among the natives and the followers of the Arabs are caused by mutual slave-stealing. Much of the time of the post commanders is devoted to these disputes, for no sooner does a slave run away than his master sets off at top-speed from the station to inform the white man. "Master, my slave has been stolen!" he cries. "Send quick your soldiers to bring him back!" Half an hour is required for the interrogation of the excited slave-owner, generally with the result that he admits that the slave had run away, but that So-and-So is harbouring the fugitive in his village. To the latter, therefore, a soldier is sent, with instructions to bring to the post both the slave and his protector. A court is then held, and if the claimant is proved to be the runaway's owner, the man is forthwith handed over. By an unwritten law, and under pretext of respecting *mœurs indigènes*, the slave system is rigorously upheld by the officials of Bula Matari.' Against two of his Belgian associates Capt. Burrows brings charges that are especially grave, and in the case of one they are supported by translation from the *procès verbal* of the inquiry which he conducted early in 1901. The allegations are that, in one instance, the culprit handed over a native who was obnoxious to him to other

natives, telling them to eat him; that, in another instance, he caused one of his 'boys' to be 'beaten with blows of a bludgeon by the work-people till death ensued'; that, in other instances, he caused the chief of a village and a dozen prisoners taken from another village to be killed, and gave the corpses to a rival chief as luxuries for one of his feasts. In other cases, again, this official handed over to two neighbouring chiefs several prisoners from various villages 'as payment.' 'He gave me,' according to the testimony of one chief, 'six men and two women in payment for rubber which I brought into the station, telling me I could eat them, or kill them, or use them as slaves—as I liked.' This Belgian, however, had gone to Europe before the investigation took place, and we hear nothing of any punishment being accorded either to him or to any of the other offenders of whom Capt. Burrows had to complain.

"Mr. Canisius's 'Campaign amongst Cannibals' is a painful story in seven chapters, dealing as it does with some of his experiences under Major Lothaire during the Budja revolt of some two years ago. The cruelties and atrocities here recorded are, of course, none the less terrible because Mr. Canisius took them all in his day's work. But somehow it is difficult to attach all the importance that perhaps it deserves to the testimony of so callous an authority. 'The cruel flogging of so many men and boys would probably have had a peculiar effect upon a new-comer, but I was in a measure case-hardened,' we read on one page; and on another, 'To be quite candid, I was, on the whole, by no means disinclined to accompany the column, for I much desired to witness the operations which were to be conducted with a view of compelling the Budjas to accept the benefit of our rubber regime.' A great many more Congo atrocities than the body of the book reports are catalogued by Mr. Leigh in seven pages of his introduction, but this summary is too bald and unauthenticated to be of much weight. Mr. Leigh is probably responsible for the chapters in which some account is given of the history and general arrangements of the Congo State, but in which nothing new is told, and there are numerous grave inaccuracies. On one page we are told that the Congo State has an area of 1,000,000 square miles, and a population of 40,000,000; and in another that the whole Congo Basin, of which the Congo State occupies only about two-thirds, 'comprises some 800,000 square miles and a population variously estimated at from 8,000,000 to 27,000,000.' Of the Abir Company, again, we read in one place that 'it is only fair to say that, so far as the present writer is aware, no allegations of ill-treatment of

the natives have ever emanated from the districts where the Société Abir conducts its operations,' and in another that 'the now notorious Abir has had a record scarcely less scandalous than that of the Mongalla Company,' better known as the Société Anversoise. It is extraordinary that such self-contradictions could escape the authors, to say nothing of the publishers' readers. They enormously detract from the importance of the book. It undoubtedly contains some materials of value. But these are greatly impaired by the failure clearly to understand that in a work of this character, in which credibility is everything, strict accuracy in regard to detail is the first, second, and third essential."—*Morning Leader.*

"'I pray,' said Prince Bismarck, in 1885, speaking of the new Congo Free State, 'I pray for its prosperous development and for the fulfilment of the noble aspirations of its illustrious founder.' It was with a burst of missionary enthusiasm that the Powers represented at the Berlin Conference in 1885 handed over a million square miles to the care of Leopold, King of the Belgians. The ostensible object of the new Belgian administration was to carry the light of civilisation into the dark places of Central Africa, and to suppress the slave trade; it undertook to 'assure to all nations the advantages of free navigation,' and to further 'the moral and material well-being of the native populations.' Europe has been too busy with its own affairs to put the question: 'How has this trust been carried out?' But the question is answered with alarming clearness in a book which appears to-day, chiefly from the pen of Captain Guy Burrows, with a chapter by Mr. Edgar Canisius. 'The Curse of Central Africa' is a vehement, uncompromising indictment of the whole system of administration by which the Congo Free State is governed. It confirms, with a definite array of facts, names, and dates, the rumours which have continually come to England during the last few years, but which have not unnaturally been regarded as extravagant and incredible.

"Captain Guy Burrows has served for six years in important positions under the Congo Free State. His book, which Mr. R. A. Everett is now publishing, is a plain, vigorous piece of writing, purporting to set down his own experiences in the Congo, and what he actually saw of the methods of government, the treatment of natives, and the 'opening-up' of the country. At a dinner given recently to Captain Burrows, his statements were confirmed by Mr. Edgar Canisius and Sous-Intendant Hoffmann, who have both lived for many years in the Free State, and by Mr. John G. Leigh, who has also had

some acquaintance with the country. When we recall the stories that have so often reached England before, and the scandals that have from time to time made a stir even in Belgium, this additional and more definite information leaves no room for doubt. The Free State Government, directly responsible to King Leopold alone, must be regarded as a stupendous trading company, owning what is virtually a monopoly, and armed with the power of life and death over its employees. The government is carried on by means of a military force—La Force Publique—an army recruited by compulsion, and serving a long term of years. This army is mainly fed by supplies which the inhabitants of the surrounding neighbourhood are compelled to bring in. The staple products of the country are india-rubber and ivory; and it is the duty of the Government officials to extort from the natives the largest supplies that can be obtained. A native chief is informed that he must send in a certain quantity of rubber within a given time (there may or may not be a nominal payment); if the rubber does not arrive a punitive expedition is undertaken, and a village may be burnt, the men killed, and the women taken away to do the work of slaves. 'In the days of Tippoo Tib and the Arab dominion,' says Captain Burrows, 'thousands of natives were killed or carried off into slavery; but I venture to say that no Arab chief ever managed the business on so vast a scale as some of the officials of the Free State.' The employment of forced labour, slavery in all but name, and that under the most degrading circumstances, is part of the system of the country. Captain Burrows's book reproduces photographs showing native chiefs in the act of being tortured, and Belgian officers looking on approvingly. A certain proportion of the rubber and ivory exacted from the natives is part of a District Commissioner's income. 'Considering that the very duties of the men involve the perpetration of acts of cruelty, and that they are daily familiarised with deeds which are unspeakable and indescribable, it will be agreed that it is not the man but the system which is deserving of censure.' The State is one 'whose very conditions of service include the incitation to commit what must be morally called a crime.' Notorious offences against life and property are winked at by officials, and disregarded at headquarters. The whole State, the Executive at Boma, the Government in Brussels, cannot be acquitted of participation in a system which is rapidly organising corruption and degrading the natives, and has long since stultified the magnificent promises of King Leopold and Bismark.

"This is the account which Captain Burrows gives from his

own personal experience of the Congo. And we must congratulate him on coming forward to say what others—including, we fear, the Baptist Missionary Society—have shrunk from saying. Captain Burrows is entirely free from the accusation of sensation-mongering. His book is a cold, clear exposition of hard facts. It reveals a terrible state of affairs ; and it does so without any appeal to emotion. We see a system of government which would have been a scandal in the worst days of Republican Rome. We see the Government of a neighbouring civilised Power, to which the Congo was given in trust by the combined action of the Powers, directly responsible for that scandal. If nothing else can be done immediately, the facts should be made known ; the Belgians must be made to understand what is going on in the name of their Sovereign ; Englishmen must be enlightened, because they, with the other Powers, agreed to hand over the Congo to King Leopold. As it is, everything has been done to conceal the facts. The Belgian Press has been gagged, and, through the medium of English Courts, attempts have been made to secure an injunction against the publication of Captain Burrows's book. It is surely curious that, whilst we are at liberty to criticise the direct representatives of the King in England, a foreign Government, to hide its own shame, should be able to threaten the freedom of the English Press. Yet we must not only insist—it is an important point—on the right to ventilate such questions as this, but also point out that, as long as the present Government remains in power, it is the only way of securing reform in the Congo. After all, it is the Belgians who are, in the first place, responsible for enormities which are being committed by Belgian citizens. We do not believe the moral sense of Belgium is at such a low ebb that, if it were fully aware of the horrors of the Congo, it would really tolerate their continuance. But meantime the responsibility of England remains ; she was a member of the Conference of Berlin ; her trading interests in West Africa are at stake ; and the condition of free rights of trade to all countries has not been kept. The atrocities committed in the name of civilisation are even worse than those in Macedonia ; whilst the responsibility of England is greater. And though the victims in one case are barbarians, and in the other case are Christians and Europeans, the facts make no difference to a question, not of faith, but of humanity. But to influence public opinion in Belgium should not be the only remedy. Our own Government should formulate questions on the subject. Captain Burrows suggests another Conference of Berlin, which should divide up the Congo country between Germany, France, and England. We scarcely think this is

practical politics. We have not much reason to expect great results from a Concert of Europe, and though it was easy for the Berlin Conference to vote away the Congo country, it would prove much harder to get it back again. But the reign of slavery and horror revealed by Captain Burrows cannot be accepted as a permanent shame to European civilisation. It is perhaps idle to hope for actio from the present Ministry—a Ministry whose interest in labour, black or white, is sufficiently indicated by their attitude in regard to the Bethesda scandal—but Captain Burrows's record cannot fail to effect reform through some channel."—*Daily News.*

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PRESS OPINIONS.

"In acquaintance with the details of all the forms of sport presented by the district of the Broads the author of 'Shots from a Lawyer's Gun' can hardly be rivalled, and, with the knowledge he possesses, a succinct guide to the locality might easily have been produced. As it is, he has given us a number of articles which have appeared from time to time in various periodicals, and although the volume in which these have been collected is well worth reading, especially by visitors to Norfolk and Suffolk, we think that it might have been materially improved by a little more pains. For those who enjoy angling for 'coarse' fish the information given will undoubtedly prove useful, especially the appendix on the origin and application of the fishery laws, the by-laws for the control of pleasure and other boats, tables of tides, distances, etc. An interesting chapter is devoted to the management of 'decoys,' by which is meant the exhibition of either living or imitation ducks to attract wild birds within reach of the sportsman's ambush; also on approaching birds by the aid of a canvas body representing a horse or an ass, the illustrations of this being very amusing. In fact, all the productions of Mr. Everitt's pencil show considerable power, and some of the vignettes are beautiful. On the whole, the book is pleasantly written, and the account of yachting on the Broads, with illustrations of the competitors in the regattas, is admirable. The index also leaves nothing to be desired."—*Athenæum.*

"We know of no work, old or new, which fulfils its own purpose so thoroughly. It is a book which appeals primarily to the sportsman, but no one who loves the Broads merely from an artistic point of view can fail to find interest on every page. A volume crammed with accurate information and delightful anecdote."—*Times.*

"Mr. Everitt's book contains a great deal of information on the sport to be got among the waterways and lagoons of the Eastern Counties, which are generally spoken of as the Norfolk Broads. In this very attractive part of East Anglia about two hundred miles of waterway and four thousand acres of lagoons or inland waters are open to the yachtsman. Wherries, with comfortable, and racing yachts, with uncomfortable, accommodation may be hired at Norwich, Wroxham, and other places, at the most reasonable charges. The shooting and the fishing on the Broads are for the most part open to everyone. If the wildfowling is not what it was, great catches of perch, bream, and, in the winter, pike may still be made. Portions of Mr. Everitt's book have already appeared in the *Field* and similar newspapers, and now that they are put together, want of order and some repetition rather spoil the book as a whole. In some five-and-twenty chapters he discourses on pike and eel fishing; yachts and yacht racing from 1800 to 1900; shore shooting and punt gunning; the use of decoys and duck shooting. Other chapters deal with various districts of the Broads, or describe particular expeditions. There is a great deal in the book that is useful and interesting to anyone who is planing an excursion, and on the coarse fishing and wildfowling the author writes with knowledge gained by experience. But the reader must not expect a book of any literary merit. The style is inclined to alternate between the high-flown and the facetious of the local guide-book. If scientific names are used, they should be used correctly, and we may point out that the bearded tit is not now called by naturalists *Calamophilus biarmicus*, nor is the Latin name of the dabchick *Merqus minor*. Some persons may also think that there are too many references to frequent and liberal potations from the beer-jar and the whisky bottle."—*The Spectator.*

"'Broadland Sport' is a very readable and interesting book, but not more so than a score of others which we have had the pleasure of receiving during the last twelve months. Good shooting of all kinds is still to be had in Broadland; and wherever the game is preserved and the shooting is to be hired, no one on the lookout for some good mixed ground could do

better than make inquiries on the East Coast between Yarmouth and Southwold. The Broads themselves and the reed beds will supply any number of wild fowl, besides first-rate pike and perch-fishing; the woods and the osier beds will hold plenty of pheasants, hares, and woodcock, while on the adjoining stubbles, turnips, and heather, some of the best partridge shooting in England, of the old-fashioned kind, is to be had. The marshes should yield abundance of snipe, and the gorse-covered sand-banks ought to be peopled with rabbits. Such a sporting Paradise may still be picked up in Broadland, if you like to pay the price. But as game and wild fowl are not nearly so plentiful as they used to be, while the demand for them is much greater, a really good shoot in this highly-favoured region has now become an expensive luxury. There is still, however, a considerable extent of fairly good open shooting to be got, though many places once famous for it have now sadly deteriorated. The fate of Oulton Broad may stand for several more :—'In days gone by there were several inhabitants in the quaint little waterway village who gained their sole means of livelihood from fish and fowl. That was before the railway came and before steam drainage mills were heard of, and a Cockney would have been considered daft had he then thought fit to appear in the regions of Broadland in the costume and general rig-out which is now no longer strange to the quiet dwellers in this out-of-the-way corner of Old England. Drainage was the first great blow to sport, steam and railways the next, then the breech-loader, and finally the invading host of would-be sportsmen, all eager to kill something. Year by year the water-birds have diminished in number, and by degrees they desert the more frequented rivers, streams, and broads until on many of the more public waterways there is hardly an edible wild water-bird per hundred acres. Oulton has suffered most in this respect. We do not suppose there is a public shooting water in Norfolk or Suffolk which has been so harassed. Often are seen pictures in the London illustrated papers entitled, "Wildfowling on Oulton Broad," wherein the artist depicts a shooter sitting on the bottom of a punt, in the reeds, with his waterman holding an anxious-looking retriever by the collar. Overhead are flying streams of mallard and wild-duck, and the envious looker-on anticipates that at least a score will grace the bag before the shooter returns to breakfast. What a myth! What a snare and delusion! Years gone by such a picture would not have been an exaggeration, but now things are sadly altered, and if the shooter killed one couple of mallard during the month of August on Oulton Broad, he would be considered fortunate.' Horning Ferry, on the river Bure, must be one of the most

charming spots in Broadland, whether we are in love with the perch or the picturesque. The shooting is very strictly preserved, though duck may be got from a boat. An idea seems at one time to have prevailed that anyone being on the river might shoot anything crossing it, a delusion which is still cherished in many parts of England. The river Bure, from Horning to Wroxham Broad, runs through the heart of a highly-preserved game district, and keepers are always in hiding among the reeds or alders on the bank. Woe to the unlucky wight who knocks over a pheasant within sight of one of these sentinels! The raparian owner claims the soil of the river, and the 'poacher' will meet with no mercy from the Bench of Magistrates; nor is there any reason why he should. Pheasants are reared at a great expense, and are practically as much private property as chickens. The chapters on yachting and on otter hunting will be full of interest for the lovers of such amusements. But as they are not peculiar to Broadland, we need not include them in our notice."—*The Standard.*

"We have already reviewed Mr. Nicholas Everitt's work on 'Broadland Sport,' but the two chapters on yachting 'During the Past' and 'During the Present' form such a special feature that we are glad to notice them apart. These chapters, occupying about 70 pages, really contain a history of yachting in the Broadland district during the last hundred years. As Mr. Everitt says, yachting 'is a sport in which all can indulge, from the millionaire in his luxurious steam yacht to the gutter-snipe in a wash-tub; there is plenty of room for everybody without being obliged to rub shoulders with everybody.' Room there must be for many a long day, seeing that in Broadland proper there are 200 miles of waterway, comprising over 4,000 acres of open water. Our author points out that the old 'water frolics' were to be remembered more as jollifications than by reason of the sailing capabilities of the boats. The patriarch of all Broadland boats was the *Augusta*, built about 1755, and she is said to have retained all her old material up to 1867, while as late as 1885 she made the home of an artist near Buckenham Ferry, who was wintering in the old craft. Our summary of Mr. Everitt's history must needs be brief. From 1800 to 1850 there was little development in Broadland pleasure craft, but from 1850 to 1870 marked improvements took place in speed, appearance, and comfort. But the *Maria*, built of heart of oak in 1834, had a notable record as a successful racer. Bought by Sir Jacob Preston in 1837, it is rumoured that at his death in 1894 he left by will a provision sufficient to preserve this veteran in good order and up-keep for all time.

"The lateeners were long the fastest racing craft of Broadland, one of the most successful being the *Waterwitch*. 'Ter *Worterwitch*,' said an old shipwright, 'wor lornched the daay Pointer fought the Black on Mussel 'Eath,' whereby the date was fixed as 1818. There is a slight error here. The fight, 12th May, 1818, was between Cox, blacksmith, and Camplin, a weaver, and Ned Pointer seconded Camplin. Cutters became more fashionable in the fifties, but from 1840 to 1869 the ideal model of a racing boat is described as 'a cod's head bow with a mackerel tail.' Mr. Everitt gives a vast amount of detail concerning many notable craft, for in his index the names of no less than 171 yachts are given, from the *Ada* to the *Zingara*, but we miss any allusion to Mr. Suckling's *Marmion*, built upon his estate at Woodton in 1828, and considered a very beautiful yacht in her time. Perhaps, however, she was not kept upon the local waterways. The Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club, founded in April, 1859, obtained Royal patronage and the prefix Royal 16th February, 1867. With the establishment of this club, yacht racing, not feasting, became the main object of the various regattas, and the term, 'water frolic,' rapidly died into disuse. The first ocean yacht race of the club came off 29th June, 1867, from Harwich to Lowestoft; but, we are told that for several reasons the East Anglian coast is not a good one for yachting. The Yare Sailing Club, formed in 1876, has had a very prosperous career, and pleasure wherries came into vogue about 1880. In the chapter on 'Yachts and Yachting during the Present—1880 to 1900,' Mr. Everitt brings his subject virtually up to date, and here we learn that the 'Great Yarmouth Yacht Club' was founded in 1883, the 'Broads Dinghy Club' in 1895, and the 'Waveney Sailing Club' in the same year. In this last the chief prize-winner is the *Unit*, designed and built by Mr. W. S. Parker, of Oulton, long a dredger in Lowestoft Harbour, working twelve hours a day, yet making time, on week-days alone, to construct this craft, which is still 'Cock of the Walk' at Oulton Broad. These yachting chapters are embellished with very numerous illustrations, and a list of the more important annual fixtures will be found very useful. 'The motor craze,' regretfully remarks the author, 'has now found its way even to these peaceful and secluded haunts, and launches of all shape, size, build, and method of propulsion are to be daily met with.' We are inclined to suggest that this yachting section might well be issued in a separate form. Meantime we note that the first edition of Mr. Everitt's book is exhausted, and a portion of the second impression has already been sold."—*Eastern Day Press.*

"In the preface to 'Broadland Sport,' Mr. Nicholas Everitt

modestly disclaims the title of artist-author: the value of his book, though it certainly smacks more of actuality than of art, is increased rather than diminished by the occasional amateurishness of its author, for this very amateurishness stamps it far more as a true record than any polishing or elaborate phrase-making could have done. Something of the guide-book, something of the sportsman's diary, something of the would-be sportsman's handbook, it forms a complete, lucid, and welcome exponent of the sports and pastimes practised on or around the lagoons, waterways, and marshes of East Anglia, and at the same time is replete with hints that will serve the sportsman in all lands. The two chapters devoted to yachting are quite a feature of the production, tracing as they do its origin and gradual development, and giving details of every boat of importance launched during the last hundred years, the history of every yacht club, the supporters of yacht-racing, and much matter concerning the owners of racing-yachts. Mr. Everitt is evidently as keen about the sport of Broadland as Mrs. Battle was upon her particular pastime, but his enthusiasm is kept well within bounds, and he is never too assertive. He might with safety, had he been so minded, have parodied Van Troil's famous six-word chapter on Snakes in Iceland—'There are no snakes in Iceland'—with a page headed 'Concerning Broadland Sports Undealt with in this Book'—'There are no Broadland sports undealt with in this book.'"

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